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Title: Need to expedite payment of compensation to the persons affected by the closure of STD/ISD/PCO booths from 1 January, 2001 to 28 May, 2001 in Jammu & Kashmir.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (UDHAMPUR): The Telecommunication Department closed the STD/ISD/PCO Booths in the State of Jammu & Kashmir from the 1st January 2001 to the 28th May 2001 due to security reasons. Chief General Managers BSNL, J & K, assured affected franchisees that reasonable compensation would be paid to each STD/ISD/PCO booth holder for the closure period. A meeting was also held on 27 February 2002 by Ministry of Defence to assess the loss incurred by the each STD/ISD/PCO booth holders as well as by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited on account of withdrawal of STD/ISD facility with effect from 1st January 2002. The compensation was to be paid on the basis of loss incurred by the individual franchisee, by the Ministry of Defence but the same has not been paid till date.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to issue the suitable directives to the concerned Ministry to pay the compensation to affected STD/ISD/PCO booth holders for the closure period at the earliest.